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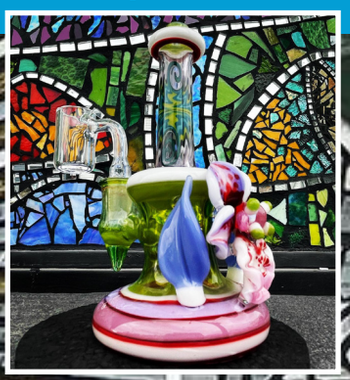

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Founder- "Whitey" Lee Noll

Consulting Editor/Angel of design-Robin Noll

Owner/Publisher/Editor/Sales-Joshua Noll

Lead writer/Photographer/Sales- "Rachel Rocks"

-Staff Photographers-
Jim Price, Rachel Rocks, Meredith Kaminek
Chris Rider

-MOFO (Master Of Financial Operations)-
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-Distribution-
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Editor Ramblings By Josh Noll

Hello Central PA and beyond. Welcome to another month of music in the beautiful mountains of Pennsylvania. I will be double spacing this month after each period as it seems to really be just another thing that divides us. Some people swear by it some people swear at it. My 'Typesetting Genius' HATES THEM! She will even go through and remove them! If you're wondering what fuels the debate? For us its all about space (or spaces). We need almost every millimeter of space we have each month to make all the info fit into each issue. Seems crazy but add all those double spaces up and we soon need another page. Wish we could add just one page but the way things work we have to jump up 8 pages, which really needs more then just a couple double spaces to fill. Somehow my 'Typesetting Genius' always squeezes it all in even if it means removing my double spacing. In fact if you're reading this and there are no double spaces after the periods, then guess what? She did it again! Love you Mom.

Summer time means carnival season and the Local Liverpool Volunteer Fire Company Festival is just what I needed to kick off a mini-vacation in the wilderness of PA. They put on a nice 3 day festival including food, games, raffles, and most importantly LIVE MUSIC! One of our

Nate Myers photo by Chris Rider Photography

local fireman happens to be the famous music photographer Chris Rider. So naturally they had some help getting some good talent. Bands ranged from Dave Gates Music, Nate Myers and The Aces, Keepin It Simple, Faith Noel, and Six Bar Break. I was able to stop in Friday for Nate Myers and the Aces. While it wasn't the carnivals of past, with scary 1950's rides powered by diesel guzzling tractor engines. Spinning you around till you're ready to puke, while almost cutting off your head. It was a nice setup, with games throughout the area and food around the outside, with plenty of options to suit most people. Of course we got some fries followed by the best walking taco I ever had. The best part being all the money went to the local Fire company. You never know how much these guys mean unless you've had them rush into your life and save the day for you or one of your loved ones. They are there when you need them so please support your local fire and rescue company. After we attained delicious food we made our way over to the stage and were treated to the magical musical story telling and harp playing of Nate Myers, accompanied by his valuable Aces. Nate alone can captivate a crowd but throw down some Aces with him and watch out. It was great hearing the sounds of the band and watching the kids run by with handfuls of plastic bags full of happy little gold fish dreaming of a nice big fish bowl. Damn I love carnivals and Harmonica's, throw them together and watch out. Nate is one of the best in the area on the harp and watching his harp/beatbox style is always a treat. Like cotton candy on a hot summers eve. Hmm didn't get any cotton candy, but I did win a couple knives during the set break. Sure I could have went to wally world and bought a much better knife. There was just something about this one that said it was mine. Be it a bike/car/airplane/knife/gun/girl/etc when I see if for the first time I know if it's mine and this knife was screaming at me. I won't say how much it cost but it's mine now. Almost on cue, as I slipped my new Knife into my pocket the music resumed. Nate was accompanied by Pete Netznik on guitar ripping leads, Nathan Cluck on Bass banging those strings and John Tuzza on drums keeping things timed and tight. I couldn't think of a better way to spend a Friday night in Liverpool PA. It's always a good time with Nate Myer's and the Aces. Thank you Liverpool Fire and Rescue for the good times and for always being there for the community.

Well Summer is in full swing don't let it slip on by get out there and enjoy the great events we have in our area. If you're looking to increase your exposure for either an event, business or band please call or text me at 717-636-4203 or email joshnoll@pamusician.net. Thanks as always to all our supporters, we can't do it without you.

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

It's hard to believe it's July already! June just went zipping by.. We had a blast on our family vacation, but it's always good to get home too! I did manage to squeeze in a few bands this month.

It all started a long time ago when I got a call that Roy Lee was up from Nashville and playing a special show at Copper Pub, right down the street. I zoomed over there in time to hear the last few songs. I've seen music set up in many different places at Copper Pub, but I really liked how Roy set up right in the middle of the two rooms with a speaker in each room so he could have fans everywhere that could still enjoy the show. Roy has been busting his butt in Nashville, writing lots of songs, and playing every chance he gets. Even though he's having a blast in Nashville, it's always nice to come up to PA and see all of his friends and musical family. It was a great show and I'm glad I got over there to at least hear a couple of songs.

Katz 22 at Carnival

Next up I headed to Spring Gate for an early show with Nate Myers and Chris Purcell. It's been a long time since I saw these two playing together, but yet they never miss a beat! I love watching them play and talking about the change of keys and just their overall musical magic. It's amazing that even with years of not playing together, they have no problem picking up where they left off and entertaining the masses. You can check out Nate Myers full schedule as a Duo, Trio, or even full band on their website, www.natemyers.com.

Nate Myers

Later that night after a nice chill dinner with my good friend, and #1 Merch Girl, Angie, I headed out to Hollywood Casino for the Hot Toddys! It's been a few years since I saw these guys and gal play. Todd definitely does a great job at keeping you entertained as the main front man, but Juan and Stacey not only help on vocal duties, they also whip out the brass as well to help add to their overall sound. Linda and Kelly were there partying the night away when I got there. It had been forever since I saw these two friends, and we had a blast dancing with the music. The Hot Toddys play a lot down along the coast in the Summer so keep an eye out for them if you're heading down to the shore.

My next day out was a crazy one, but I knew I had limited days where I could actually go see bands, so on this open Saturday I took advantage of everything I possibly could. I started the afternoon at the Shermans Creek Inn Roadhouse Pavilion at Appalachian Harley Davidson for Stricken and Dead Cowboy. When I got there Stricken was already warming up the stage. Stricken is a Disturbed Tribute Band. If you are a Disturbed fan, you really need to check these guys out. They are the real deal and do their best to represent Disturbed to the best of their ability. If you close your eyes and just listen, Dave's vocals really make you feel like you are listening to the original band. He does such a great job!

After Stricken Dead Cowboy got on stage and just continued to set the stage on fire. They play all of your favorite hard rock cover songs. It was awesome to see how many people they had out supporting them on a Saturday afternoon. I also saw quite a few people that I haven't seen in a long time. For some it was their first time seeing Dead Cowboy and even from the first few songs, they were blown away. These guys put on a great show from start to finish and really had their fans wanting more!

Stricken

Next up I zoomed over to Steelton for the Cannabis Health Expo, hosted by CoExist Glass Gallery. Shawn Gold put on one heck of a party! They shut down the main road through Steelton and had vendors, food trucks, and even a small little skate park set up right on the street! He also had an impressive stage area with live music all day! I got there in time to see Dan Jameson playing along with his friend on the mandolin. Dan Jameson plays a lot of Grateful Dead music and other jam band music, so his music was perfect for this festival and everyone seemed to be enjoying it. Bobby Gentilo was up next with a whole band backing him. I'm not sure of the name of this band, but you can tell they've been playing together for a

continued on next page....

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Bobby Gentilo at Health Expo

while. They played some amazing music that had people dancing along. Bobby recently released his debut album called "Gentilo". He's an award winning international record producer, but after years of helping others develop and produce their own music, it was finally time for him to release his own! It's truly awesome watching him wail away on his guitar and sing! Of course, he also has the privilege of knowing some amazing musicians, which I'm sure helped him form his band that was backing him at this show. Everyone, a Harp, Sax, bass, and even a female drummer, banging away,

Dan Jameson at Health Expo

Dead Cowboy at The Pavilion

all with Bobby as the frontman was definitely a special treat! Unfortunately, I couldn't stay all day to enjoy the music, because it was time for the next show. But kudos to Shawn for bringing the community together with this special event. Everyone was having a great time and I'm sure the crowd continued to grow throughout the day.

Next up I headed down to Carlisle to Hook & Flask Still Works for Matt Jameson, and play-

continued on next page....

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ing between his sets was his friends Hunter and Liam. Matt had no idea he was going to be competing with the Ford Nationals Parade driving by right as his set began, but luckily you could still hear him over the roar of the engines. It was cool to see that even after the parade was over, people stuck around to listen to the rest of the show. Matt does such a great job connecting with his crowd and helping everyone feel like they are part of the show, and he loves getting people to sing along, dance, and have a good time! During his breaks his friends Hunter and Liam played a few songs, they even played some originals. They haven't played together in a while, but they loved being back up on stage, getting the itch to play even more, which I'm sure they will because the crowd loved them too! Matt will be back at Hook & Flask on July 9th, ready to entertain the masses. If you'd like to get Matt booked at your venue or private party, check out his ad in this issue for all the details!

Thankfully Katz 22 ran their schedule in the June Issue, just like they do every month, because I was able to see that they were playing at the Hummelstown Carnival on a Wednesday night, and I was thrilled to be back in town for their show. I didn't see them in forever, and now I got to see them two months in a row! Katz 22 had a great crowd hanging out in lawn chairs and on the bleachers enjoying the music. I took some pictures, but then realized I could still hear them play even from the Bingo area, so Holly and I got to play some Bingo and support the firemen all while listening to great music! It was definitely a win-win situation. Katz 22 will be playing a few carnivals, casinos, and legions throughout the Summer. Check out their ad in this issue for their full schedule and get out there and support some amazing music!

On a Thursday night I was able to go catch Derek Henry's debut at the Harrisburg Beach Club. If you haven't checked out this awesome place yet, you really should. It is located on the far end of City Island, right beside Water Golf. They have a ton of comfortable seating where you can overlook the river, listen to good music, and even drink your favorite beverage. They do have a full bar, and usually a food truck. You can also get ice cream and other yummy foods from the Water Golf area too. It was a great place for Derek to play on a Thursday because there was also kickball games happening by the Harrisburg Young Professionals, so they came over and hung out and listened to the music after their games. It's always fun seeing people get hooked in to any musician as they play. By the end of the night they were requesting songs and wanting Derek to keep playing! Derek has a bunch of shows this month doing his acoustic stuff, he'll actually be back at the Beach Club on July 4th and July 7th. He also has a very big show with his band Observe the 93rd on July 1st they will be doing a CD Release Show at Lovedrafts in Mechanicsburg. Their new album is called "an eeriness to everything", I can't wait to check it out!

The last weekend of the month I headed back out to Hollywood at the Meadows in Washington, PA for BRP Entertainment. I had the opportunity to work with The Nixons, Fastball, and Everclear. My first show with 3 bands was super exhausting. 3 load ins, 3 sound checks, and 3 tour managers! But we made it to show time, and from that point I just get to sit back and enjoy the show. All three bands put on a great show and the crowd was all happy, so overall it was a success. I'll be covering 3 shows in July, The Commodores, Ultimate Aldeen and Luke Bryant (both tribute bands), and Verve Pipe! Plus, I'm going to Wisconsin for a week, so again I really won't be around much, so please hit me up with your mid-week shows so hopefully I'll be able to catch some shows throughout July!

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On another personal note.. this month I will be changing day jobs. I'll be leaving the State and going to work at Bob Ruth Ford in Dillsburg Buying Cars! If you have an extra car that you'd like to get rid of, or maybe it's time for a change… all I need is your VIN number, and I'll hopefully be able to help you get a more than fair deal. You don't need to buy a car from Bob Ruth, even though that's also nice, but you just need to sell us yours! Bob Ruth bought my son's VW GTI, it was such an easy process and really helped Zack in a time of need, so I want to be able to help other people get out of a bind, or just get a new car of their dreams, so here I go… on to my next adventure! If you would like to sell your car, give me a chance to see what we can do for you!

My life is completely nuts, but yet completely awesome! I'm truly blessed to have my husband who supports me in all of my job changes, additions, and just overall craziness. There wouldn't be a Rachel Rocks if he didn't support me and let me run around and support music every chance I get. He truly is one of the best guys in the world.. Love you Kris!

Well, that's all for this month, like I said, again I'll be gone every weekend in July. So, please hit me up for any mid-week shows because I'm still going to NEED to get out and support music as much as I possibly can. Please get out there and support live music for me! Tag me and let me know what I'm missing. Go live at shows so I can see them from my hotel room! Let me live vicariously through you. Hit me up at RachelRocks@pamusician.net with any show suggestions. THANK YOU for supporting live music and the PA Musician Magazine! There is no scene without YOU!

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! The month of June began with the return of 80s alternative rock band, Gene Loves Jezebel, at Millersville' Phantom Power on June 7. The show proved for a very intimate setting with hits; "Desire (Come and Get It)", "Jealous" and "The Motion of Love." And quite a memorable night spending time with the band after the show catching up on the status of the band. The band, founded by twin brothers, Jay and Michael Aston, has unfortunately suffered trademark infringement lawsuits between the brothers over use of the band name Gene Loves Jezebel.

Harrisburg nightclub, XL Live, continues to be very busy and quite literally has filled its calendar for concert dates the remainder of 2022. Yam Yam played to a really big crowd on June 10 and KIX returned once again to a packed house on June 17. KIX shared their stage with openers Leadfoot and Dirt Cheap. Sadly, guitarist Ronnie 10/10 Younkins has yet to make his return to KIX, but continues to play in his other band Blues Vultures. Blues Vultures were meant to open for Jackyl at XL Live on June 24 but had to cancel due to guitarist, Jeff Worley, minor medical issue. KIX will return to XL Live in Harrisburg on Black Friday, November 25.

Los Angeles natives, The Bronx, returned to the East Coast opening for folk punk singer, Frank Turner. The pair played the Fillmore in Silver Spring, MD on June 18 and are currently touring together as Turner literally plays '50 States in 50 Days.' Australian legends, Midnight Oil, recently played their final shows in America as the band call it quits with their farewell 'Resist - The Final Tour.' A phenomenal show took place at NYC Hammerstein Ballroom on June 19 and the band played their last US date at Baltimore's National Harbor on June 25. Midnight Oil grew to fame in late 80s with the hit "Beds Are Burning" regarding the plight of their fellow indigenous countrymen. The band's music often details political issues and they have lent their support to multiple causes.

Tom Keifer, of Cinderella, made it back to his home-state with three PA shows this past month in Jim Thorpe, Glenside and Greensburg. Currently in the midst of his 'Sonic Slam Tour 2022' with LA Guns and Faster Pussycat. Keifer currently resides in Nashville but is originally from

continued on next page….

Springfield (outside Philadelphia) where he began 80s metal band, Cinderella. The Greensburg, PA show on June 20 consisted of 13 songs (10 of them being Cinderella) including "Shake Me," "Nobody's Fool" and "Gypsy Road."

American rapper, Rye Rye, returned to the stage for the first time in a decade on June 25 at the Ottobar in her hometown of Baltimore. Rye Rye began performing at the age of 16 and gained the attention of M.I.A. who then signed her as the first artist to her label N.E.E.T. Recordings. The song "Sunshine" collaborated both female artists becoming a huge hit. Rapper, M.I.A. is widely popular for her hit "Paper Planes" which rose to #4 on Billboard and sold over 4 million copies. Rye Rye, now 31, had left a promising career in music to become a full-time mom.

Members of the York-native band Live had their date in court dealing with legal issues. Singer, Ed Kowalcyzk, stated "I control 55% percent of LIVE. Chad Taylor is fired. He will never stop the music again. Thank you for all your amazing love and support." Kowalcysk said to fans, "I cried multiple times reading your comments and messages - it really meant the world to me and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

Ryan Adams returns to touring after 3 years. After playing a series of largely unpublicized dates including a stop at NYC's Carnegie Hall earlier this year, Ryan Adams is taking the next step in resurrecting his career with an eight-stop Midwest tour in the fall. Adams has largely been out of the spotlight since the New York Times published in February 2019 accusations by several women, including ex-wife Mandy Moore and singer Phoebe Bridgers, that the singer/songwriter had engaged in abusive and sometimes harassing behavior with them, all in the context of the then-burgeoning "Me Too" movement. Adams, who has publicly struggled with drugs and alcohol over the years claims he has been sober for at least nine months.

Paul McCartney has the top tour currently in the world on the strength of reported box-office results from four recent sold-out concerts on his recent "Got Back" tour. It was his first road effort since the pandemic and consisted of 13 cities in the U.S.. McCartney sold an average of 30,894 tickets each night and grossed nearly $7 million per show. The former-Beatle played Baltimore's Oriole Park this past month on June 12.

Justin Bieber has been forced to postpone the remaining U.S. shows on his "Justice Tour." The superstar addressed

continued on next page....

Tina, Chad Stewart (Faster Pussycat) & Eric

his fans via Instagram on June 11 to explain that he's suffering from Ramsay Hunt syndrome, a rare neurological disorder that's caused by a virus attacking his ear and other facial nerves. He demonstrated in a video how half of his face is paralyzed, and said, "For those who are frustrated by my cancellation of the next shows, I'm just physically obviously not capable of doing them. This is pretty serious as you can see. Obviously my body's telling me to slow down. I hope you guys understand, and I'll be using this time to just rest and relax, and get back to 100%, so that I can do what I was born to do."

After releasing his fourth full-length album, Twelve Carat Toothache, Post Malone is gearing up to hit the road for the "Twelve Carat Tour." The 33-date tour kicks off September 10 in Omaha, Nebraska and concludes November 15 in Los Angeles. Roddy Ricch is scheduled to be the opener for select dates throughout the tour. Dates include: 10/04 – Capital One Arena – Washington, DC and 10/06 – Wells Fargo Center – Philadelphia, PA.

The Rolling Stones canceled their concert in Amsterdam on June 13, just hours before it was due to start after lead singer Mick Jagger tested positive for COVID-19. The band announced the cancellation in a statement, saying the 78-year-old Jagger tested positive "after experiencing symptoms of COVID upon arrival at the stadium" on the outskirts of Amsterdam. Some fans were already in the stadium when it was announced that the show had been scrapped. The veteran rockers are touring Europe with a show called SIXTY to mark six decades together.

Foo Fighters will honor the band's late drummer Taylor Hawkins with The Taylor Hawkins Tribute Concerts – one at Kia Forum in Inglewood, Calif., and the other at Wembley Stadium in London – in September. The shows will mark the return of Foo Fighters to the stage after the Hawkins' sudden death at 50 on March 25 during a South American tour. Taylor's wife, Alison, took to social media to thank the band and its fans for their support. "In celebration of his life, is now up to all of us who loved him most to honor Taylor's legacy and the music he gave us."

Andy "Fletch" Fletcher, the keyboardist who for more than 40 years added his synth sounds to Depeche Mode hits like "Just Can't Get Enough" and "Personal Jesus," died at age 60. A person close to the band said Fletcher died Thursday from natural causes at his home in the United Kingdom. Fletcher formed the group that would become giants of British electro-pop along with fellow synthesizer players Vince Clarke and Martin Gore, and lead singer Dave Gahan, in Basildon, England in 1980. Depeche Mode was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2020.

Harry Styles and Live Nation will donate $1 million to Everytown For Gun Safety Support Fund in the wake of Uvalde, Texas, school shootings, and announced all 42 shows on his groundbreaking "Love On Tour 2022" traveling residency have sold out. The fund supports the education, research, and litigation arm of Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country. "Along with all of you, I have been absolutely devastated by the recent string of mass shootings in America, culminating at Robb Elementary School in Texas," Styles said.

JULY SHOWS: Bush / Candlebox - Grantville Hollywood Casino July 3. Rick Springfield - Charleston WV Sternwheel Regatta July 3. Tommy Conwell & Young Rumblers - Lancaster Roots & Blues July 9. Motely Crue / Def Leppard / Poison / Joan Jett - Hersheypark Stadium July 12. The Cult - Washington DC Anthem July 19. Broncho - Philadelphia Johnny Brendas July 21. The Cult - Philadelphia The Met July 22. ZZ Top - Grantville Hollywood Casino July 24. Dirty Looks - Selinsgrove Susquehanna Center July 30.

Eric, Jay Aston (Gene Loves Jezebel) & Tina

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AUGUST 20–ROCKIN THE HILLS –HANOVER, PA
AUGUST 26–RACEHORSE TAVERN–THOMASVILLE

faux fear

Faux Fear, created out of the forced quarantine of Covid 19, took the lock down as a way to create something new and unique. Straying from traditional ways and the mainstream social media platforms they are making waves with their unique style and sound. The music speaks for itself as it draws you into a deep musical trance that I can only describe as a soothing melodic mix with driven deep bass lines, strong pop like beats and whimsical lyrics that keep you wanting more.

Faux Fear will be launching a summer tour starting out in their hometown of Reading PA at the Gnome Hutch and the Nitro Bar and then heading out on the road for a month long trip through Ohio, Indiana and up to Wisconsin. They will be back on local turf at the end of July for a show at Tellus 360 in Lancaster. Make plans now to catch a live show and experience for yourself Faux Fear.

Faux Fear Bio:

Determined to "stop repeating the boring parts of the past," goth/post-punk trio, Faux Fear formed in late 2020 shortly after singer/drum programmer Audrey (she/her) and guitarist Nicholas (he/him) moved to Reading, PA. As true Cocteau Twins scholars they won't play pop without the prefix "dream-" in front of it. Laying the groundwork for a new band in late 2020, the married couple wrote songs and developed their sound in quarantine at home for "when human interaction became a thing again." An initial third member became convinced that Audrey and Nicholas were working for the CIA and running a sex cult (really), which almost left Faux Fear as a duo before the Philly-based Pra (he/him) answered a Craigslist ad and completed the picture on bass.

Like their darkwave forebears, Faux Fear's offerings like "Uncharted" and "Legacy" maintain a tricky balance between atmosphere and propulsion. The trio balances the stillness of reverberating specks of guitar with thick slabs of bass and drum machine as Audrey coolly explores the space between with her calmly intense vocal lines, smoothing over even the unexpectedly dissonant chorus of the latter and taking on a whole other dimension. "Code of the Sea" is as oceanic as its title and somewhat akin to folding the rippling waves of vintage Slowdive in with New Order's most magnetic repetitive hooks.

With one wintry music video for "Uncharted" under their belts and the Perfect Blue EP, a double A-side, 7-inch flexidisc on the way, the band has over a dozen shows planned throughout the summer, another video and EP on the way. A full-length album is in the works, no doubt fleshing out a sound that Pra describes as "fun, danceable music about dreary things," with particular emphasis on melodic bass lines, while Audrey has historically written songs about everything from her and Nicholas' cats to Twin Peaks (plus, you know, love, death, etc), influenced by Megan Thee Stallion, Angela Davis, and Hall and Oates just as much as New Order, Sisters of Mercy and Blade Runner. Her unique artistic perspective could only come from the triangulation of being a professional ballet dancer in her 20s, a classically trained vocalist, and a "lifelong goth," who's just ecstatic to be making music she loves and performing it live almost weekly in her late 30s. Faux Fear insists on keeping these goals firmly attainable: Enjoying every show. Recording as they please. Lighting up when they get to perform a new song for the first time.

Besides the obvious play on "faux fur," Pra calls the band's name indicative of "hostility towards immigrants, fear of socialism taking over, healthcare in general, and speculation about vaccines. All things that are used as bogeymen to keep people voting a certain way." In other words, the toxic realities faced by the multiracial make-up of band members themselves, who are uniformly "kink-positive extreme leftists" involved in all manner of political causes from Black Lives Matter to sex worker advocacy. As a band they're psyched to just be playing music and sharing stages with acts like Twin Tribes, with one highlight of their already-prolific grind being a funeral home refashioned into a venue called the Wickyards in Youngstown, OH last summer. But they'll play all over central PA or any public access TV show or festival you can think of, not to mention a session at the legendary KEXP. "I just hope we keep becoming more genuinely us," Audrey says. That sounds pretty attainable

— Bio by: Dan Weiss, Dan Ex Machina

To get a glimpse at Faux Fear go to fauxfear.bandcamp.com where you can check out a couple teasers as we wait for the release of the full album. To catch a live show check out the tour dates listed below and for band updates check them out at **Fauxfear.xyz** on the web. Faux Fear would like to thank the DIY music scene in Reading, all their friends and Family and last but not least Baxter and Vespa.

links: **fauxfear.bandcamp.com / fauxfear.xyz**

—Cover and inside photo by: Dane Painter

07/09/2022: READING, PA at Gnome Hutch
07/12/2022: READING, PA at Nitro Bar
07/13/2022: HOMESTEAD, PA at The Forge
07/14/2022: AKRON, OH at Tune Temple
07/15/2022: FT. WAYNE, IN at The Muse on Main
07/16/2022: CHICAGO, IL at The Way Station
07/17/2022: MILWAUKEE, WI at Bremen Cafe
07/18/2022: CHAMPAIGN, IL at The Brass Rail
07/19/2022: INDIANAPOLIS, IN at Melody Inn
07/20/2022: LOUISVILLE, KY at Art Sanctuary
07/21/2022: CINCINNATI, OH at MOTR Pub
07/22/2022: DAYTON, OH at Blind Bob's
07/23/2022: YOUNGSTOWN, OH at West Side Bowl
07/29/2022: LANCASTER, PA at Tellus 360

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July 30 Kenny Shadle | 8-11

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Lyndhurst

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

And in a flash, June is gone! Holy cow this month went fast, at least for me. Between the craziness surrounding a graduation followed by a much needed week-long vacation, I still managed to hit five shows with a total of 18 bands over the last month as well as doing a few promotional shoots. Genre's ranged from straight up Louisiana blues, to "Butt-Rock" and Metal acts, with a great variety spanning the two. One of the things that I love about what I do for Pennsylvania Musician is how it has expanded my taste in music; I used to be pretty picky about my music, but now I've grown to appreciate all kinds...and there's a ton of just about any type of music you could ask for here in Central PA, there's no doubt of that!

My first trip out was to a new (to me) venue, Mickey's Black Box in Lititz with my son David. Three of the four bands playing this evening I was pretty familiar with, but I got an invite I couldn't pass up. I'd heard an awful lot about this place, and it certainly lived up to all the hype. First up for the evening was a band that's no stranger to the magazine, the kings of Butt-Rock (they're genre description, not mine! LOL) themselves, Defiant. Al and the boys came out and set the stage on fire from the get-go, not literally of course, playing a kick-ass set including their new release "Viva La Revolution" and one of my fav's of theirs "Wendy". Next up was a band that, by dumb luck, I'd now seen three times over the previous month. Lives Lost, led by Tanis Pellegrini, played a great energetic set of their original rock tunes. These guys are playing all over the place, all the time. Definitely give them a visit. The third band playing was one I've heard a lot about, all positive...and they did not disappoint. Ignite The Fire is a four piece rock band out of Maryland with incredible vocals, beautiful melodies, and a sense of showmanship that I absolutely love seeing on stage. These guys come through Central PA a lot,

you would be doing yourself a favor to make sure you catch their show some time. Headlining the evening was multi-CPMA winning band Eternal Frequency. Not only are these folks ALWAYS working hard to create new music, they're just awesome humans. This evening they played an awesome selection of their original rock tunes including Step Up (check out their official music video on YouTube, you might catch my son & I if you look close LOL), Parasite, and their newest release "A.I. Overall", I have to say it was a pretty amazing night.

Next up was a trip to a place I always have a good time at: HMAC. Not only is this a beautiful venue with great employees and leadership, but they just announced an amazing new partnership with Live Nation Concerts. HMAC itself is remaining unchanged, but this partnership will only lead to bringing even MORE incredible shows to Harrisburg for all of us. This particular evening was to see a headliner that I've listened to for years, thanks to my dad. Opening up the evening Lightning Malcolm, hailing from North Carolina and bringing his solo acoustic "Louisiana Swamp Blues" show which was a mix of blues, rock and some slide guitar snuck in occasionally. I sat out on the deck with Malcolm prior to the show just having a chat about life for a bit, he proved to be a really cool guy. Playing originals such as "My Sugar Baby", "Just Friends", and "Stomp your Feet"; it was a fantastic musical set that I'm sure gained him some new fans in the crowd. Headlining the show was none other than Tab Benoit. Tab brought his fast, hard hitting, raw and deep Louisiana blues to the stage and left nothing behind. Playing a mix of originals and covers that he made his own like "Shelter Me", "For What It's Worth" (easily the best live performance I've had the honor of witnessing), "Nothing Takes The Place Of You", Hank Williams' "My Bucket's Got a Hole In It", and one of my favorites of his "Medicine"; Tab took ownership of the Capitol stage from the moment he set foot on it.

My third trip out was to Lovedrafts Brewing in Mechanicsburg for another great show put on by 717 Entertainment. If I haven't mentioned it (and I probably have, but it bears repeating), these folks have created a very unique venue to enjoy all genre's of music while having an awesome menu of food and craft beers. Starting out the evening was a young three piece band (ranging from 15 to 21 years old) called Big Handsome. These guys came out on the stage and played a very energetic set of rock with some punk mixed in. It was very cool to me to see them each take a turn on vocals. These guys were pretty talented for sure. Next up on the bill was my pal Jon Garcia & The Hopeless Romantics. The guys have been busy recording a bunch of new music in the Pop-Rock genre and debuted a few of those songs this evening. These included "One's For Each Other", "Good Talker", and Elton John's "Saturday Night's Allright For Fighting." Next up for the evening was a local band you've likely heard of by now...and if you haven't, you've been asleep at the wheel. Lynd-hurst is an all original four piece rock band with a little emo and punk thrown in for flavor. This evening they played a few of their new songs: "Messy", and "Sorry For The Way I Am" (a personal favorite of mine), and even "Rick-Rolled" the crowd with "Never Gonna Give You Up". Headlining the evening was yet another band I've heard a lot about: Wildstreet. NYC based 80's style Glam/Hairband style rock, these guys put on an awesome how. It was loud, it was fast, it was nothing but pure rock and roll with a stage presence that showed years of experience.

Next up was a trip up to Sunbury to see my friends at Spyglass Winery, and photograph a show beside my brother from another mother, Jeff Solomon. I never fail to have a great time at Spyglass, and this was no exception. This was a show with two bands that I've literally listened to (again, thanks to my dad) since before I could even walk. Starting off the evening was Foghat. While their lineup has changed a bit over the years, they sounded so, so good. Playing classics like "Driving Wheel", "Upset and Lonely", "Fool For The City", and everyone's favorite "Slow Ride". Headlining the show this evening was none other than George Thorogood And The Destroyers on their "Good To Be Bad" tour. George brought the heat this evening with his hard Rock & Roll "Proving Rock and Roll is still alive!" My first time seeing their show, it didn't disappoint with a multitude of their hits including; "Who Do You Love?", "One Bourbon One Scotch One Beer", "Bad To The Bone", and even playing "Tequila". It was a memorable night for me on several levels.

My final trip out for the month was down to Dallastown for the Building Bridges For Brianna event. From the event's Facebook page: "Building Bridges for Brianna" is an organization founded by Matt Dorgan in response to his grief from losing his daughter Brianna to suicide on December 3, 2020. They are based in York County which is where they put their efforts to "build the bridge." Suicide is something we've all experienced at some point, in some way. In the middle of the day, a number of folks, including Matt, came on stage to tell their stories. It was a heartbreaking and emotional moment, but at the same time inspirational in seeing everyone's commitment to helping people in need. I'm quickly running out of room here but have to at least mention each of the bands that donated their time and music for the event. Three Day Rain is a bluegrass style band covering songs from a variety of genres. End Of Days is a classic rock cover band playing songs like "Mississippi Queen", "Sweet Emotion", "Tom Sawyer" and many others. Hot Mess is a rock cover band playing songs like "Highway Tune" (HAVE to give a shout out to David Snyder, whose vocals for this song were AMAZING!), American Band, Fire Woman and Cumbersome. Heroes 4 Ransom is a rock band with a very personal connection to the cause of the day, playing originals suck as "Break", "Reaching Out" and still my favorite of theirs, their version of "Imagine" which they've even gone to the lengths of owning the rights to their version. Rounding out the evening was Maiden America, an Iron Maiden tribute band headlined by the man himself: Gordon Tittsworth. Playing "The Trooper", "Sea Of Madness", and many more of Maiden's extensive metal library, they did an awesome job!

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see, make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

I don't think any literary epics like "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" or "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" will result from it, but I started constructing this month's PA Musician writ just mere feet away from the Mark Twain Study on the campus of Elmira College in southern New York. I'm hoping that maybe some of Twain's aura might affect me and prompt the words to come out a little easier.

I visited Elmira, as well as a few nearby locations, immediately after departing from Quiet Oaks Campground near Cross Fork following last month's Smoked Country Jam Bluegrass Festival. Again providing a major highlight to my summer, Smoked Country Jam provided three days of live music on two stages, plus camping, food and fun in the northern PA Wilds, while raising money for the Lupus Foundation of America Philadelphia Tri State. This year I got to see all of the 21 scheduled performing acts at least once. While billed as a bluegrass festival, Smoked Country Jam presented a wide scope of musical flavors stemming from the bluegrass tree. Traditional bluegrass was again represented well by such festival stalwarts as Lock Haven's Lockport Drifters (who have played 17 years at this event); Morgantown, West Virginia favorites the Hillbilly Gypsies (who have played at every Smoked Country Jam), and numerous other groups that incorporated traditional numbers from the catalogs of Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers, Flatt & Scruggs and others into their sets. One of this year's new names, North Carolina's Unspoken Tradition (featuring former Altoona area musician Sav Sankaran on upright bass), evolved their original music style from traditional bluegrass and folk. Other groups demonstrated varying degrees of "newgrass" progression and experimentation during their performances – notably this year's headliners, Asheville, North Carolina's Fireside Collective. During their three performances, this group – Pennsylvania natives Jesse Iaquinto and Joe Cicero on mandolin and guitar respectively, resonator guitar player Tommy Maher, upright bassist Carson White, banjo player Alex Genova, and guest Dean Mahoney on cajon – frequently stretched their songs into side journeys and instrumental explorations, pushing the parameters of their instrumental skills in the process. While Fireside Collective demonstrated traditional roots flavors from time to time, they never stayed in once place too long and made each of their sets an adventure. Making their first Smoked Country Jam appearance, Pittsburgh's Buffalo Rose base their sound in traditional folk, while exploring avenues including alt-country and even touches of rock'n'roll. Another first-time festival group, Millheim-based Wicked Chicken, blended elements of bluegrass, jazz, Americana and rock'n'roll into another unique style and sound; teaming with his brother Huck in this project, fiddler Gus Tritsch has performed at Smoked Country Jam since he was 5 years old. Also making Smoked Country Jam debuts in 2022 were Driftwood, the Clyde Canton Band, Philadelphia's Pocono Jones & the Bear, the Private Stock Trio, North Carolina's Alex Leach Band, Pittsburgh's The Shameless Hex and Ferdinand the Bull, Into The Fog and Johnny Lit's Jerry Duty. Also providing highlights were Mama Corn, Colebrook Road, Bug Tussle, Doug Forshey, Van Wagner and Dead Horse Revival…And during the presentation of the annual Pennsylvania Heritage Songwriters Contest (PHSC), Philadelphia's Artese & Toad captured first and second place with two songs themed in the Altoona area – "Altoona" (the winner) and "Ghost on the Track" (second place), while Munhall-based songwriter Bruce Hoffman captured third place with his song, "Homestead Revisited." This year's Smoked Country Jam raised more than $6,000 for the Lupus Foundation. Next year's event will take place June 15-17, 2023.

Joe Cicero with Fireside Collective

After missing the previous two years due to COVID-19, Boalsburg – credited as one of the birthplaces of Memorial Day – brought back its annual Memorial Day celebration in late May. Activities and events happened throughout Memorial Day weekend, including a festival and live music on Memorial Day Monday. I arrived in time to see the first set of OverheaD's performance outside Boal Mansion. The multi-instrumental cast of Rick Plut, Kevin Fagley, Tom Mallouk, Eileen Christman and Doug Teti performed a wide range of material, spanning numbers from the Beatles, Three Dog Night, The Who, Cowboy Junkies, ELO, Dave Matthews Band, original songs and more. Highlights included the group's cover of "Catch A New Wave," a popular local 1980 song by former State College rockers Backseat Van Gogh; and Eileen breaking out the violin on songs from the Beatles, Kansas, the Animals, the original song "Not Too Late" and others…I then headed to the downtown Boalsburg Memorial Day Stage and festival, where a surprise performance was in progress. Pure Cane Sugar was scheduled to wrap up the afternoon's music, but when illness sidelined part of the group's roster, singers Natty Lou Race and Kate Twoey teamed up with fellow State College blues-based rockers The SKOAL Brothers, resulting in the first-ever appearance by "Pure Skoal Sugar." Natty Lou, Kate and SKOAL frontman Julian Allatt did much of the lead singing and harmonies, backed by keyboardist John "JT" Thompson, bassist John "JK" Kennedy and drummer Stubby Stubbs. Some of their songs included the fusion of Pink Floyd's "Time" into Neil Young's "Down By the River," Bruce Springsteen's "I'm On Fire," the Grateful Dead's "Sugaree" and the lively merger of "Iko Iko" with Harry Belafonte's "Man Smart (Woman Smarter)" to finish the set. The day then

continued on next page…

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concluded with the solemn and reverent remembrance ceremony at Boalsburg Cemetery.

The Pennsylvania Roundhouse Rally's Summer Series 2022 kicked off over Memorial Day weekend at Roundhouse Harley-Davidson near Duncansville. The two-day rally featured five bands, with Friday featuring a 1980's music doubleheader. Giants Of Science kicked off with their celebration of '80s-era rock and pop. The cast of ringleader Mick, Johnny 5, Scotty B and Steve quickly had folks dancing in front of the stage with '80s favorites from Gary Numan, Greg Kihn Band, Simple Minds, Men At Work, Modern English, Soft Cell, Men Without Hats, Billy Idol and more. Toward the end of their performance, the Giants welcomed up guest Shannan to sing lead on Journey's "Don't Stop Believin.'" Hair Force One then followed with their '80s hair band party, rocking the Roundhouse with numbers from Motley Crue, WASP, Def Leppard, Poison, Ratt, Guns N'Roses, Kix, Ugly Kid Joe, Twisted Sister, Bon Jovi and more. Singer Victor Synn, guitarists Michael J. Cox and Milo Nuttz, bassist Peter Fitzwell and drummer Shawn Toppuver kept the rocking energy high from start to end, resulting in a packed dance floor for the duration of their performance…Three bands then performed on Saturday, starting with young Altoona upstarts Sweet Desire. Singer Jordan McCaulley, guitarist Kenton Lewis, bassist Joshua Simpson and drummer Trey Boore root their sound in the late 1960s/early 1970s hard, experimental and psychedelic rock tradition, and demonstrated that angle with their mixture of original songs and cover material. Sweet Desire broke out some familiar favorites from the Rolling Stones, Doors, Beatles, Free, Big Brother & the Holding Company and Led Zeppelin, but also unearthed "Need Some Love" off Rush's 1974 debut album, and the 1971 Cactus version of Willie Dixon's "Evil." Their original songs this day included their title song "Sweet Desire," "Long Black Train" which led into Trey's drum solo display, and their set closer "Down Days," culminating in a wild distortion and feedback-laden finish. Next was Ages, continuing the classic rock flavor with numbers spanning the 1960s to 1990s. Singer Mike

Scott Imler of Jack Squat

Castine, guitarist Tyler Bryan, and the father-and-son rhythm section of drummer Jerry Naugle and bassist Jacob Naugle kept the rock strong and constant with numbers from Deep Purple, ZZ Top, Doors, Seven Mary Three, Black Sabbath, Ted Nugent, Jimi Hendrix, Cream, Black Crowes, White Zombie and more. Capping the music was Raleigh, North Carolina-based AC/DC tribute Shoot To Thrill. Demonstrating that "Girls Got Rhythm" (and they did that song), these five women delivered a fun, feisty and fiery display of "thunder from Down Under," performing many AC/DC favorites. Opening with "Live Wire," Shoot To Thrill – singer Kara, schoolgirl outfit-clad lead guitarist and "Angus" Susan, rhythm guitarist Wendy, bassist Jai and drummer Katie let loose with numbers from both AC/DC's Bon Scott and Brian Johnson eras; including "Squealer," "It's A Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock'n'Roll)," "Night Prowler," "Thunderstruck," "Have A Drink On Me," "For Those About to Rock (We Salute You)," "Back in Black," "Big Balls," "You Shook Me All Night Long," "Highway to Hell" and many more. Shoot to Thrill delivered the energy, movement and enthusiasm throughout their set, keeping the crowd fired up and excited. After the group played "Shoot to Thrill," the crowd demanded more, and Shoot to Thrill quickly returned to finish out the night with "Hells Bells."

Dan Gagliano / Separate Ways

The second year of Altoona's Rockin' the Yard Concert Series launched early last month in the upper lot of Altoona's Jaffa Shrine. Opening the night was Altoona's Jack Squat, performing hard-rocking classics from the 1970s through 1990s. Singers and guitarists Scott Imler and Ron Dalansky, bassist Todd Batzel and drummer Dan McConnell triggered stage front rocking and dancing with numbers from the Scorpions, Tesla, Fastway, AC/DC,

continued on next page…

Katie Black of The Shameless Hex

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The Professor continued...

Alice In Chains, Jackyl, Silverchair, Judas Priest, Whitesnake, Krokus and more. Headlining the night, Separate Ways the Band came, saw and conquered this audience with their incredible Journey tribute show. From the get-go, singer Dan Gagliano proved that he likely has the best Steve Perry singing voice out of anybody not named Steve Perry! (And a few observers suggested that he probably sounded more like vintage Steve Perry than Perry himself does now.) Backing Dan was lead guitarist Mike Corsaro (who was equally impressive scorching out the Neal Schon guitar leads), keyboardist Mick Loro, bassist Paul Vassa and drummer Tom Stewart. Together, this group brought the Journey experience as they performed the group's catalog of hits and classics – opening with "Separate Ways," and proceeding through such favorites as "Only the Lonely," "Stone in Love," "Open Arms," "The Party's Over," "Be Good to Yourself," "Girl Can't Help It," "I'll Be Alright Without You," "Lights," Feeling That Way/Anytime," "Lovin' Touchin' Squeezin'" and many more. This crowd was hooked and connected; at one point, Dan started singing the opening words to the Steve Perry solo hit "Oh Sherrie," and was taken by surprise when the audience immediately started singing the rest of the words back to him. The mood was ecstatic during the homestretch; after Separate Ways performed "Anyway You Want It" and "Faithfully," the crowd yelled for one more, and the group closed out the night with "Don't Stop Believin.'" Proceeds from Rockin' the Yard benefit Shriners Children's Hospital, Combat Vets Association and nonprofit youth organizations.

I encountered Felix & the Hurricanes three times in recent weeks…The first happened on Memorial Day eve, as they entertained a large community audience of all ages on the gazebo stage at downtown Altoona's Heritage Plaza, presented by Levity Brewing Co. Lead Hurricane, singer and guitar Felix Kos, bassist and singer Jeff Clapper, and drummer and singer Bob "Bulb Wattage" Watters mixed a wide variety of rock, pop, blues, country favorites and original songs – everything from The Temptations/Rare Earth's "Get Ready" to Paul Simon's "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" to ZZ Top favorites like "Tush," the 'Bulb'-fronted "La Grange" and "I'm Bad, I'm Nationwide" and "Heard It on the X," requests for the Allman Brothers and Lynyrd Skynyrd, and everything in between. Highlights included a 9-year-old named Jase joining 'Bulb' behind the drum kit during John Mellencamp's "Authority Song" and Skynyrd's "Sweet Home Alabama," the Hurricanes dedicating their original "Coming Home" to American servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice, and

Felix & The Hurricanes

seeing a community enjoying music and fun together…The Hurricanes also entertained as part of last month's "For Pete's Sake" event at Hollidaysburg's Legion Park. Presented in honor of Pete Dannenberg, American Legion Post 516 Hollidaysburg presented "For Pete's Sake: Let's Put an End to Soldier Suicide" to raise awareness of soldier suicide, and to benefit the organizations Stop Soldier Suicide and TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors). The event began with a solemn opening ceremony featuring guest speakers, with the Hurricanes entertaining and lifting spirits afterward…And I obeyed a signal from nature; when a flock of wild turkeys crossed before me on a rural road while I was delivering last month's PA Musicians, per my tradition I took it as a sign that I needed to see the Hurricanes later that Sunday night at Altoona's Black & Gold Tavern. The Hurricanes will open for Washington, DC blues legends The Nighthawks on July 29 during the next PA Roundhouse Rally weekend at Roundhouse Harley-Davidson near Duncansville.

Rising last month from the ashes of former Altoona area party band favorites This Albatross was Autumn Rising, who played their debut show before a large outdoor crowd of revelers and onlookers during the Patton Firemen's Jubilee. Most of this group's members are This Albatross alumni – lead singer and group namesake Autumn Shiffler, guitarist Kirk Robison, bassist PJ Kelly and drummer Shawn Gioiosa; with Scott Imler filling out the roster on guitar and lead vocals. Autumn Rising quickly escalated their maiden voyage into a lively street party, as folks of all ages moved and grooved to the group's mix of rock, pop and country favorites. Songs by Aerosmith, Joan Jett, Gretchen Wilson, Blondie, No Doubt, Bruno Mars, Shania Twain and many more kept the energy level at a constant high from start to end. Autumn was clearly happy to be back on the microphone, singing her heart out and rallying the crowd. The group pulled out a few surprises, such as the Autumn-Kirk duet on Bryan Adams/Tina Turner's "It's Only Love," and their rocking take on Madonna's "Express Yourself." And near night's end, guest singer Melissa Nagle joined Autumn to help belt out Janis Joplin's "Me and Bobby McGee." Autumn Rising's debut was an exciting and triumphant one; watch for increasing sightings of this group on area stages in the months ahead.

Started early last year as a side gig project, Stacy and the Rejects quickly generated a following and the attention of venue owners, and has become an in-demand name at various western PA venues and other situations. During last month's show at the Castle Pub in Ebensburg, group lead singer and namesake Stacy Feighner and her "Rejects" – husband Tony Feighner on guitar and vocals, bassist Josh Yahner, and Mike Davis on drums and vocals – brought the dance party with their mix of classic rock, pop and country favorites. People were up and dancing quickly as the group did energetic numbers from Nena, Smithereens, Elle King, Outfield, Billy Idol, Journey, Poison, Tom Petty, B-52s and many more. Handling most of the lead singing duties, Stacy's voice showed excellent range, power and steadiness; I was especially blown away by her performance on Jefferson Airplane's "Somebody to Love." Mike and Tony also sang lead on several numbers along the way. The dance floor increased as Stacy & the Rejects' performance continued, and the crowd didn't want this band to stop when the end of the night arrived.

Stacy Feighner of Stacy & the Rejects

Father's Day themes surfaced during my live music journey this past month, as I witnessed a few musical fathers, sons and grandsons in action. I took in the final day of last month's Holy Name Church Festival in Ebensburg, making its return after missing the past two years due to COVID-19. Performing this day was the man who taught me to play accordion and read music, Mario Crocetti, and his trio. Now 94,

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The Professor continued...

Mario is still a master of the accordion keys and buttons, and was making his instrument sing in a multitude of flavors this day. Accompanying him was grandson Joe Krug on drums, Brian Regala on saxophone and – also in his 90s – Jack Dominick on lead vocals. This was a fun afternoon, as the group entertained a seated audience and passersby with a variety of pop standards, country and polka favorites spanning the 1940s through 1970s. Jack had fun with a group of cheering ladies; dubbing them the "Toot-Tooters," he led them on several sing-alongs, including the Italian novelty song "Eh Cumpari (Dippity-Dippity-Dot)," "Rocky Top" and Louis Armstrong's "Hello Dolly." He also belted out strong voice on the Frank Sinatra classics "New York, New York" and "My Way." The group also did numbers from Dean Martin, Elvis Presley, Tony Bennett, Glenn Miller, Eddy Arnold and more. The Mario Crocetti Trio will perform a free show at Carrolltown's Legion Park on Wednesday, July 13.

Jack Dominick with the Mario Crocetti Trio

One weekend after seeing the Mario Crocetti Trio perform, I got to see one of Mario's sons in action, as Mike Crocetti provided the drum beats for Hot Wax as they performed at the Woody Lodge Winery near Ashville. Mike, along with singer and guitarist Mike Zerbee, and bassist and singer Chris Myers, generated good time rock'n'roll for an eager audience of wine-sipping revelers. Hot Wax triggered dance action with favorites from Billy Joel, Jimmy Buffett, Eagles, John Mellencamp, Old Crow Medicine Show, Wilson Pickett, Johnny Cash and many more. And the group welcomed another of Mario Crocetti's grandsons, Jake Yarnish, up to the drum kit for a side journey of Hot Wax's sister group, Irish rockers Full Kilt – as Jake, Mike Zerbee and Chris did the Irish triple-play of Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl," "Whiskey in the Jar" and U2's "With or Without You."

I also witnessed a father-and-son double-bill last month at downtown Huntingdon's Bryan Park, as singer and songwriter Ron Russell teamed up with his son, Brandon and his band Neon Hotel. Armed with acoustic guitar, Ron started off with a mixture of his original songs and select covers. Some of his original tunes this day included "Blue Collar Blues," "5 A.M." and "Jesse James." And with a sudden guest "Professor" beckoned to join in on cajon, Ron also did versions of John Mellencamp's "Small Town," Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight," and Procol Harum's "Whiter Shade of Pale." Neon Hotel – Brandon ("Neon") on lead vocals and guitar, "Atlas" on bass and vocals, Vincent on guitar and vocals, and James Grove ("Dante") on drums – then played mostly original songs plus one cover, a version of Lit's "My Own Worst Enemy." Neon Hotel demonstrated an alternative rock/punk style on their original numbers, as they did such songs as "Worlds Behind," "Feeling Odd," "Follow the Leader," "Quarantine," "Anthem," "Summer Girl, Autumn Grave," the retro-flavored and pop-toned "I Don't Know How to Think About It," "Mediocre at Its Best," the punk-driven "Knotted Yarn," "Voodoo Doll" and more.

Vincent & "Neon" of Neon Hotel

Altoona-based Sunset Over Mars continues to build their following. During their Memorial Day weekend performance at Altoona's 4D's Lounge (with Skyline Drive opening), Sunset Over Mars brought the energy and had folks moving and grooving in front of the stage. They mixed a number of their original tunes with rock and punk covers. Some of their originals included "The Gun," "The Worst," the hard-driving "Party Hard," their debut single "Stereo" and "Going Home." They also did tunes from the Gin Blossoms, Good Charlotte, Neon Trees, Maroon 5 and others. Sunset Over Mars was boisterous – singer Stevey St. John delivered the voice, sass and personality up front, while guitarist Zachary Piper, drummer Nikolas Plowman and stunt bassist Kevin Neely (wearing a space helmet for part of the night in keeping with the group's 'Mars' theme) brought the instrumental fury behind him. (A fearless performer, Kevin is fast becoming the "Evel Knievel" of local bass players, as he launched into several reckless abandon moments on the stage and on the dance floor during this show.) Sunset Over Mars' music and feverish energy successfully fired up the party; watch for their return to the 4D's soon.

And two more shows I witnessed recently included the late May reunion of songwriters Pat McGinnis and Jason McIntyre for an enjoyable evening of music at Al's Tavern in Altoona…And Pittsburgh's Legendary Hucklebucks, delivering their rip-roaring rock'n'roll at McGarvey's in Altoona during Memorial Day weekend.

Pat McGinnis

News and notes…A cancer walk for former area drummer and percussion instructor Mark Morningstar took place in Huntingdon last month, as Mark's former students Richard Kane and Jordan Canner walked 54 miles encircling Huntingdon borough to raise funds and awareness for Mark, who was diagnosed in December with Stage 3 liver cancer, and needs a liver transplant. Shortly after the walk, good news arose, as another of Mark's former students, Shawn Campopinao, stepped forth to donate his liver to Mark; both Mark and Shawn will undergo their surgical procedure on July 21… Centre County's Arts Festival weekend returns this month after two years away, as both the Central PA Festival of the Arts in State College and People's Choice Festival of Pennsylvania Arts & Crafts return July 13-17; People's Choice will take place at a new location, Grange Park in Centre Hall…After 8 years away, the Blair County African American Heritage Festival returns on July 23-24 at Altoona's Railroaders Memorial Museum; The Pennsoulvanians and Da One Band (from Washington, D.C.) are among the entertainers…The Spin Doctors, Railroad Earth and Vanessa Collier are among featured performers at this year's Flood City Music Festival, happening July 29-30 at Johnstown's Peoples Natural Gas Park…Featuring 23 groups and performers over three days, this year's Route 22 Rock and Blues Festival happens July 15-17 at the Lincoln Caverns Campground near Huntingdon…After falling dormant for nearly 50 years, former outdoor music venue Musselman's Grove in Claysburg returned to action last month with a day-long grand re-opening concert event…Centre County-based rock and pop band TV Blonde is seeking a new drummer to replace Blaine Martin, who is leaving the group…Guitarist Tom Buck is rejoining Cambria County

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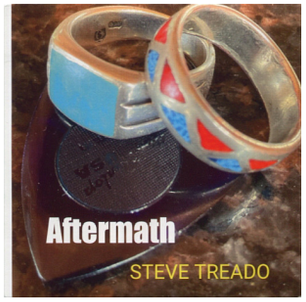
PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

HALESTORM – BACK FROM THE DEAD (Atlantic) As was the case with many bands during the COVID-19 pandemic, Halestorm suddenly found themselves separated from their livelihood of live performing, their audiences and fans, and each other. Singer and guitarist Lzzy Hale channeled her anxieties and frustrations into song creations, and the results are found in the 11 tracks of Halestorm's fifth studio album, Back From the Dead. This is easily Halestorm's most visceral and psychotic set so far. With mental well-being serving as a central thread, the songs address anger, disconnection, society, self-identity, survival, and ultimately – hope. Lzzy's voice is a fine-tuned, precision musical weapon – she's always had the pipes, but here she mixes a touch of diabolical into her delivery, and even some of her nuanced quieter moments come off fearsome. The forceful album-opening title track "Back From the Dead" is Lzzy and Halestorm's statement of survival; their re-emergence from the darkness and hell of the past two years. An angrier-sounding Lzzy faces her inner demons on the volatile "Wicked Ways," embraces her 'crazy' on the ominous "Strange Girl," and defends that crazy and individuality on the tense "Psycho Crazy." One of two softer-toned numbers on the album, "Terrible Things" is a thoughtful assessment of a world ravaged by sickness and a pandemic of hostility toward one another. The stern rumbler "Brightside" tries to grab on to hope and escape from the

abyss, while "My Redemption" is Lzzy's self-realization that she will weather the storm. Having braved her storm, Lzzy celebrates her redemption and her people on "The Steeple," and the album concludes with the voice and piano ode "Raise Your Horns" with its theme of hope, healing and being comfortable in your own skin. Halestorm presents tight and concise melodies that each stand on their own, and the album works as a balanced, cohesive whole. Lzzy delivers her most dynamic singing performance yet, conveying a broad spectrum of emotions and nuances that convincingly sells her words and maintains the excitement. She and Joe Hottinger generate scorching guitar solo work, and the rhythm tandem of bassist Josh Smith and drummer Arejay Hale provide steady and strong backdrops throughout the album. The overall production is clean and powerful, and gives Halestorm razor sharpness from beginning to end. Halestorm ups the emotion and edge on Back From the Dead, resulting in their most invested and stunning set so far. (The album can be obtained through Halestorm's website, www.halestormrocks.com.)

STEVE TREADO – AFTERMATH (no label) Born in North Carolina but now calling State College home, Steve Treado is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter, recording engineer and producer who has issued four albums to date. His latest, the expansive 18-song Aftermath, finds Steve exploring a multitude



of musical styles and textures. Most of the album fits under the umbrella of Americana, as Steve blends together elements of folk, blues, country, bluegrass, rock'n'roll, gospel and more. Besides providing the primary singing voice here, Steve also handles most of the instruments heard on the album, crafting his various flavors with guitars, mandolin, bass, keyboards, drums and percussion. A few guests help out on the set – most notably Natty Lou Race (of Pure Cane Sugar and Raven & the Wren), who contributes vocals on seven of the songs and wrote one number ("Second Chances"); and percussionist Luke Cimbala, who appears on two tracks. Guest Jim Bjork provides saxophone accompaniment on the rousing rock'n'roll duet "Get Up," and David Franklin adds piano on the gentle-toned instrumental "The Night." Steve launches the album on an uptempo note, as the country-rocker "Circling Round" muses about the cyclical nature of life. He explores country folk frontiers on "Black Coal," "So Long, Goodnight" and the rural-toned folk rock number "Rain on Me." Steve's mandolin paints Appalachian folk tones on the upbeat "Fade Away" and "Broke Down and Busted," and folk and blues merge on the romantic duet number "Salvation" and "Forgotten Dreams," the latter recorded live at Pine Grove Hall in Pine Grove Mills (near State College). Mandolin drives the rolling bluegrass instrumental "Mando Drag," and several instruments guide the multi-tiered instrumental journey "To Hear and Back." This is a busy and solid effort; Steve's variety of musical flavors keeps things sounding fresh from start to end, with his sturdy country croon and overall musicianship providing the connecting threads throughout the set. His blending, layering of instruments and contributions by his guests add color and depth to these numbers. Recorded, mixed and mastered at Steve's own Hedgerow Studio, Aftermath sounds clear and consistent, with all voices and instruments identifiable in the mix. Steve Treado reveals more of his creativity and willingness to explore a wide swath of musical terrain on Aftermath, and the result is a captivating, satisfying listen. (To obtain the album, visit Steve's website, www.stevetreado.com.)

The Professor continued...

Sunset Over Mars

rockers Fuse…Altoona-based rock and metal artist Jakob Vladimir is releasing his new album, "Heart Shatter," this month… State College-based roots country and Americana artist Kristi Jean has announced that she will be issuing a new album in the fall…The Altoona area music scene mourned the passing of Jeff Smith on May 20; he was 56. Jeff was an early lead singer for popular 1990s Altoona-based rock band Bottoms Up, and is survived by a daughter…And also sad news from the Pittsburgh music scene, as former Gathering Field bassist Eric Riebling passed away on June 8 after a two-year battle with brain cancer. Eric was a member of The Gathering Field during their 1990s rise to prominence as a national recording group with Atlantic Records. Prior to that, Eric played bass and was a founding member of popular 1980s Pittsburgh new wave and dance band The Affordable Floors.

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WANTED: Drummer looking for something different, electronic and or acoustic. 50 years experience online and or live. Rock, metal, prog, electronica, or just weird. Email: drumsterfire@gmail.com or call Kurt 717-240-0095

MUSICIAN AVAILABLE

AVAILABLE/ WANTED: Guitarist with years of experience and pro gear looking to form band. Covers/originals from classic to indie rock. Lancaster area. Email Steve at sydbarrett927@gmail.com

AVAILABLE: Mature/Seasoned guitarist for a working/near working situation. Band, trio, duo's.. Classic rock/Blues/Oldies etc. CCR- Petty-Beatles-Aerosmith-Skynerd-Bad Co.- Eagles-SRV.. etc Professional equipment, reliable..back/vox. E-mail: johnandzach@gmail.com

AVAILABLE: "Seasoned pro drummer seeking gigging band or connected musicians to start one. Prefer popular covers in most genres (but easy-going, flexible)" 973-945-6383

AVAILABLE: Experienced Bass player with good vocals looking for a classic modern rock band, playing out 3-4 times a month. 610-607-3516.

AVAILABLE: Singer/songwriter looking to form or join classic metal band, gear, lighting connections. Hazelton area, Sabbath, Maiden, Priest, anything hard or metal have experience.Call: 570-926-9984

DRUMMER AVAILABLE for live and Studio Professional, many years Experience. rhythmsaint7@gmailc.com 570- 594-8215.

AVAILABLE: Experienced Bass Player looking for classic rock and billboard top 40. Call Roby at 717-668-1543

AVAILABLE: 28 year old drummer looking to join or start a rock band. Text 717-454-8950 or rcoomer27@gamil.com, Lancaster area

AVAILABLE: Singer. Tenor. Likes the blues, 90's, Alt, Hard Rock. Looking for a place to grow, write, and create. Mellow hardworking family man. Selinsgrove Area. vonkline@ptd.net

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WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN?

Call or text Josh at 717-636-4203 by Monday, July 25th to be included in the August 2022 issue

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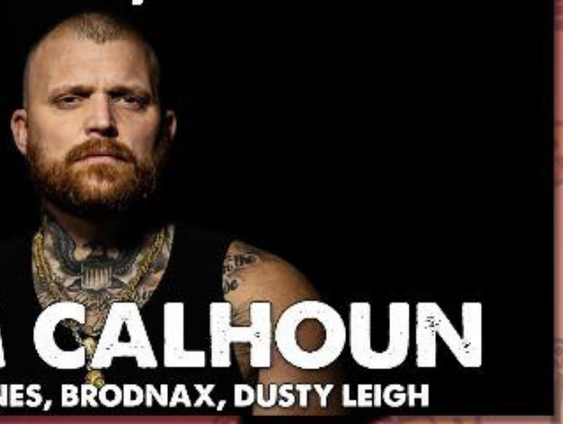
FRIDAY, JULY 8

THE FOUR HORSEMEN
(METALLICA TRIBUTE)

SATURDAY, JULY 16



ADAM CALHOUN
W/ DEMUN JONES, BRODNAX, DUSTY LEIGH

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
W/ STRAY FROM THE PATH, DYING WISH

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

CROWBAR
W/ SPIRIT ADRIFT + MORE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

COREY FELDMAN
LOVE RETOURS (22 + A FEW IN 22) TOUR

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

DEICIDE
W/ KATAKLYSM, INHUMAN CONDITION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

BLACK FLAG
W/ BLACK FLAG, T.S.O.L., THE DICKIES, TOTAL CHAOS

UPCOMING SHOWS AT REVERB:

JULY 20: MONTANA OF 300

AUG 18: GIRLS NIGHT OUT

AUG 27: BOXING EVENT:
BACK TO SCHOOL BRAWL

SEPT 9: TOMMY VEXT

SEPT 20: MONUMENTS

NOV 11: VENOM